



Guidelines for Writing Your Application Essay

Please use the following guide to write a 2-3 page, double-spaced, well-written essay that describes your intellectual goals for this BDP and how your work in the program will help you achieve them. We strongly encourage you to have your essay reviewed by the University Writing Center prior to submission, as a panel of UT faculty members whose research and teaching interests relate to your BDP topic will evaluate your application essay.

You will submit your essay and complete your application online. Visit the [How to Apply page](#) for more information.

Please click on your intended BDP program to review the essay prompt & other guidelines:

[Children & Society](#)

[Conflict Prevention, Management & Resolution](#)

[Criminal Law, Justice & Inequality](#)

[Design Strategies](#)

[Digital Arts & Media](#)

[Environment & Sustainability](#)

[Ethics & Leadership programs](#)

[Human Rights & Social Justice](#)

[Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship](#)

[Museum Studies](#)

[Non-profits & Social Entrepreneurship](#)

[Patients, Practitioners & Cultures of Care](#)

[Public Policy](#)

[Social Inequality, Health & Policy](#)

Other Application Items (required for some students):

- If you are graduating Spring 2027 or earlier, the application will prompt you to submit a [semester course planner](#) that is designed to outline your plan for completing the BDP alongside your remaining degree requirements before your intended graduation. Please meet with your major academic advisor to review your semester course planner prior to submitting it.
- If your cumulative UT Austin GPA is in the 2.0-3.0 range, the application will prompt you to submit a GPA statement. This should be a brief (1-2 paragraph) statement, explaining any extenuating circumstances regarding your grades as well as any updates on your academic progress. This is your opportunity to express to the panel why your GPA is lower than you'd like it to be, any circumstances that contributed to this, and the steps you are taking to improve it.

